



March, 2001
Volume 5, Issue 1

Calendar Notes

April 30, 2001

First Quarter 2001 Motor Carrier Fuel Tax (Form MCFT-101) and International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA-101) returns are due.

April 30, 2001

Claims for Proportional Use Credit (Form MCS-1789) are due.

Visit Our Website

Go to the Department of Revenue's website at www.state.in.us/dor and select the Motor Carrier Services link. Scroll to the bottom of any page and email us your comments.

Indiana Department of Revenue
Motor Carrier Services
5252 Decatur Boulevard, Suite R
Indianapolis, IN 46241
(317) 615-7200

Indiana Trucking Tips

Proportional Use Credit

To be eligible to file claims for proportional use credit for 2001, you should be certified by the Department by April 1, 2001. A \$7.00 fee is charged with the certification. If you paid this certification fee last year, you may continue to file your claims for credit. If you have not filed your certification form and paid the fee, you must do so in order to file claims for refund. If you are certified after April 1, 2001, you will become eligible to file claims for credit during the first quarter of 2002. If you have questions, call (317) 615-7345.

IFTA/Motor Fuel Tax Renewals

The grace period to place your 2001 IFTA/Motor Fuel decals on the vehicle(s) expired March 1, 2001. If you have not renewed or placed the decals on your vehicle(s), you will be subject to fines and penalties for failure to be in compliance. Please contact the Motor Carrier Fuel Tax Section at (317) 615-7345, if you have any questions or problems.

IRP Reminders

All apportioned non-renewed credentials must be returned to the IRP Unit postmarked on or before April 17, 2001.

If you do not return your apportioned credentials non-renewed, you will receive an assessment billing for the full year registration fees.

Please do not include credentials intended for refund in the same package as returned credentials, unless the refund requests are separated and specifically marked "Attention: Accounting".

Oversize/Overweight Forms

In the past, many forms for Oversize/Overweight vehicle permitting were color-coded. To improve our services to you, all forms, except the M233T and M233SA, are now on white paper. Consequently, these forms are now available on the TaxFax and the Internet.

You may obtain these forms from the TaxFax by dialing (317) 233-2329 from your fax machine and entering the retrieval codes (you may obtain a list of retrieval codes by following the prompts). You may also obtain the forms from the Internet at www.state.in.us/dor.

If you need several of these forms, you may make and use photocopies. Make sure any copies you make are clear and legible.

We hope this makes ordering Oversize/Overweight Vehicle Permits easier for you. If you have any comments or questions, please call Motor Carrier Services at (317) 615-7320.

Safety Related Defect

Freightliner Brake Pedal Piston Rod

Are you aware of a safety-related defect involving the brake pedal piston rod on certain air brake-equipped Freightliner trucks?

The problem is the brake pedal piston rod, which activates the service brakes, may bend and later fracture, resulting in a loss of brakes. This could occur on approximately 134,000 medium duty and heavy duty Freightliner FLN Business Class trucks, first introduced in May, 1991. The affected trucks were built from May 1, 1991, through November 10, 2000, and have the Freightliner nameplate and model number FL 50, FL 60, FL 70, or FL 80.

Any owner of an affected trucks should not drive his/her vehicle with a damaged brake pedal piston rod. To do so could result in brake failure, potentially causing property damage, personal injury or death. Freightliner is aware of two reported property damage crashes, and of another reported crash involving two fatalities, caused by brake pedal piston rod failure.

Freightliner LLC recently initiated a voluntary safety recall and remedy campaign to address this problem. The company will replace the brake pedal piston rod with one of larger diameter and also replace several other parts. Freightliner has sent information to truck owners to fully explain the problem and the process for getting their vehicles repaired. First priority for repair will be given to vehicles with dual steer, followed by vehicles in construction, refuse, fire, and emergency applications. Replacement parts for the dual-steer vehicles are available at Freightliner dealers.

Owners of the affected trucks should *immediately* do the following to determine if the brake pedal piston rod is bent.

- Determine whether their Freightliner medium duty or heavy duty air brake equipped truck is a Business Class model FL 50, FL 60, FL 70 or FL 80.
- If so, owners should locate the brake piston rod and clevis under the dash, behind the brake pedal assembly. The threaded end of the piston rod is installed on the clevis, and the other end is inserted into the brake valve plunger (the plunger is enclosed in a rubber boot).
- Inspect the threaded section of the piston rod where it threads into the jam nut and clevis.
- If the piston rod is bent, owners should take the vehicle out of service and contact their Freightliner dealer for immediate repairs. Owners may also contact Freightliner's Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-FTL-HELP for replacement part arrangements. Modification consists of replacing the brake pedal piston rod, clevis, and plunger with a new design.
- If the piston rod is not bent, the vehicle should be safe to operate. However, it should be repaired by a Freightliner dealer as soon as parts are available.

Additional information is available at the Freightliner Web site, <http://www.freightlinertrucks.com>. Representatives at the toll-free Freightliner Customer Assistance Center, 1-800-FLT-HELP, are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to answer questions about the safety recall.

*Excerpted from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Press Release 12/18/00*

Personnel Change

We are pleased to announce Corina Roberts is the new supervisor of our Oversize/Overweight Vehicle Permitting Section. Ms. Roberts' leadership and interpersonal skills, ability to develop programs, track complex operations, and her performance under the pressure of a high volume environment are examples of why she is deemed so well suited to this position.

This section employs a staff of 14 individuals and processes over 300,000 permits a year, ensuring safe and efficient routing of vehicles whose size and/or weight exceeds the legal limits. Please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Roberts with any concerns or questions you have about your vehicle's Oversize/Overweight or Superload Permit at (317) 615-7320.

Intrastate Carrier Services

CDL (317) 615-7335

Indiana USDOT (317) 615-7350

Superload Permits (317) 615-7325

Indiana State Police (317) 615-7373

Motor Carrier Fuel Tax

(317) 615-7345

Base Plate Registration

(317) 615-7330

Indiana Operating Authority

(317) 615-7290

Oversize/Overweight Vehicle

Permitting

(317) 615-7320

Interstate Carrier Services

CDL (317) 615-7335

IRP (317) 615-7340

IFTA (317) 615-7345

SSRS (317) 615-7350

Titles (317) 615-7330

Superload Permits (317) 615-7325

Indiana State Police (317) 615-7373

Oversize/Overweight Vehicle

Permitting (317) 615-7320

Fax Numbers

CDL (317) 821-2340

IRP/IFTA (317) 821-2335

Insurance (317) 821-2339

Titles/Base Plate Registration

(317) 615-7388

Oversize/Overweight/Superload

(317) 821-2336